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COCAINE SHIPMENT SEIZED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

Ciudad Juarez-EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish-21 Feb 84 Sec B p.3

[Text] One of the largest shipments of hard drugs ever intercepted in Ciudad Juarez was seized by State Judicial Police agents who, aided by coincidence, confiscated a shipment of pure cocaine bound for the United States with an estimated black market value of 100 million pesos.

The heavy blow to the international drug traffic was dealt by investigative officials from the aforementioned police entity, Rodolfo Avalos, Juan Jose Rosales, Manuel Zuniga and the State Judicial Police commander himself, Hector Mario Varela.

Based on the reports which were turned in, the shipment of pure cocaine was intercepted at 0400 hours on the morning of 18 February, at the intersection of Arroyo de las Viboras and the road to Anapra, in the Felipe Angeles housing development, where there was a late model vehicle without license plates, driven by the trafficker who managed to evade the action of the justice system.

The State Judicial agents claimed that they suspected the vehicle because it did not show any driving registration, and decided to make it stop, thereby causing the driver to undertake a quick escape, while the vehicle stopped when it reached the opening leading to a brickworks.

The driver subsequently fled in the direction of the American side, while leaving behind a dark blue 1979 Fiat Strada car, with four doors, which only people in a well-off financial position use in the United States, because it is an import in that country.

Found in the back seat of the vehicle itself was a yellow suitcase with seven plastic bags containing the drugs, weighing 1 kilogram and 700 grams; which, according to reports from the American police authorities, would be worth 100 million Mexican pesos on the black market.

Chemists from the United States undertook the analysis of the drugs, establishing that they consisted of pure cocaine, and that the traffickers could have made up to four cuts in them, thereby increasing their weight to 6 kilograms and 800 grams, an amount worth millions.

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Inside the suitcase in which the cocaine was found there was also a toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb and a plastic package containing an acid and three small tubes of the kind used to analyze the purity of drugs.

Inside the Fiat Strada car no clues or belongings were found that could establish the identity of its owner, or at least which would help to find the one who was driving the vehicle and carrying the drugs. When the personal effects were analyzed, no fingerprints were found that might have made it possible to identify the trafficker, according to a report from the State Judicial Police agents.

When the investigators from the aforementioned police entity were asked about the manner in which they found and seized the drugs, they said that they had been inquiring about Felipe Angeles, suspected of a crime against the minor Nubia Eduvigis Rios Zapata, who was known to have resided previously at the Oasis development of INFONAVIT (Institute of the National Fund for Workers Housing), but who now lives in the housing development where the drugs were found.

Rosales, Avalos and Zuniga claimed that it was just by chance, adding that a report was sent on the description, engine number and serial number of the vehicle to the United States stolen vehicles department, to find out who the owner was and whether it had been stolen.

Moreover, yesterday, both the 1979 Fiat Strada and the 1 kilogram and 700 grams of pure cocaine were placed at the disposal of the agency of the Federal Public Ministry, so that the investigation might be continued, added the State Judicial Police commander, Hector Mario Varela.

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